



NORTH EAST DISTRICT

"The Shofar"



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United
Women
in Faith

Our NEW logo, name & website (uwfaith.org)

"WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??"

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TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE:

November 4 – Tele-conference 2023 planning

WI CONFERENCE MEETINGS 2022

**October 14-15: Annual Gathering -
1st.UMC, Baraboo, WI**

2023 SHOFAR Newsletters:

January 2023: articles due Dec. 15

Go to: www.wisconsinumw.org for
LATEST copies of "CATCH the VISION"

SUAMICO'S RECYCLE PROGRAM SUAMICO UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, has a project using TerraCycle and would be happy to recycle used gift cards to avoid sending them to landfills. Since we sell scrip gift cards, we felt obliged to do this project. We purchased a box from Terracycle for that specific purpose, since recycling these cards is a rather costly process. Terracycle makes it possible to recycle hundreds of things that can't go in your home recycling bins, but they are not free. Learn more: website terracycle.com

Suamico UWF/UMW is recycling gift cards and is happy for you to bring, or send any that you collect to safely get them recycled and kept out of landfills. A special prepaid box has been purchased from TerraCycle that we will pack full of cards and send back to them for recycling.

Cards that can be recycled are those that are specifically wallet-sized, flexible material cards: gift cards, hotel key cards, licenses, & ID's. Cut up **only** cards containing personal information (such as licenses & ID's) using only 2 cuts. **Do Not Cut gift cards** or hotel key cards.

More Information: Contact Suamico UMC (Office@suamicoumc.org) 920-434-1168



President's Message



United
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Days ago.....almost a month ago, we were blessed meeting in-person at Suamico UMC for our Annual Day of Celebration that had to be postponed 2 years in a row, Thank You COVID! We had a great day, super lunch, something new and a great guest speaker, Heidi J. Careaga, Finance Chair for National UMW Office, National Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group.

What you missed.. We understand all the Units could not attend so thanks to Suamico's tech he recorded the day. It is broken down into 3 YouTube recordings. the links:

(14 minutes) [Video One](https://youtu.be/sP71dQLz_Bk) : https://youtu.be/sP71dQLz_Bk (Singing)

(2 hours +) [Video Two](https://youtu.be/eMeMLyDw8JY) : <https://youtu.be/eMeMLyDw8JY> (openings, business & forum)

2022 NE District United Women in Faith Speaker <https://youtu.be/zaLooTkUzC8>

CHECK YOUR PRESIDENT'S PACK: You will find needed information that needs to be taken to your bank. This information will tie United Methodist Women/doing business as United Women in Faith. The things that are not changed we are still United Methodist Women, purpose has not changed, and **missions** remain the same. **checking accounts** remain the same, checks can be made to **United Methodist Women**, or **United Women in Faith** after you file the paperwork at your bank.

The new brand is designed to help attract younger women, which we have not been able to do. Hopefully this will help build our organization.

Where we are today?? Where we have always been, units that desire to work in missions to help and support women, children, and youth. My prayers are with each and every member of a unit that they care enough about our missions and the women that started our movement in 1869. Your prayers will help.

Hebrews 10:22 *let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.* 10:23 *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* 10:24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.* 10:25 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Jan Stanko, NED President

Vice-President's Message



United
Women
in Faith

Happy New Year to all! New beginnings are often very positive things. I was not at the recent UMW Annual Gathering, because I was attending my brother-in-law's wedding in Michigan. He and his new wife had both lost their marriage partners after more than fifty years each. They were lonely, found each other through FACEBOOK entries, had a secret first date out of their city, and the rest is now history. Besides the January 1st date, we have several "new years" with our church family. Our church program year begins on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Our UMW year begins in September as well, and district events begin after our September Annual Gathering. After COVID most of our UMW groups and activities have resumed. This "New Year" deserves some resolutions from us. We will decide mission activities, pledges, meeting schedules, speakers, fundraisers, etc. Maybe there are some new opportunities for you to take advantage of, new members that you may include, and new mission activities. Maybe there is a renewed commitment to make or involvement for you to enjoy. Take a look at what the new program year has to offer, and then plan to make this new program year all that it ought to be!

Ruth Wiersma
Vice-President



Spiritual Growth Message

A few months back, we adopted a cat from the humane shelter. She was about 5 years of age, a golden colored tabby, soft coat with a tender sweet personality. She enjoys napping on a pillow in the bay window sill, in the sunshine and warmth provided by the sun. The other day I sat down and she jumped up on my lap. Placing her paws upon my chest, she began kneading. She just kept going: one paw up and down, then the other. Finally, I said with a smile, “my heart is working you can stop the CPR”. That got me to thinking about all the people who need CPR.  not Cardio pulmonary resuscitation but those who need Christ in their lives. Without Christ, is their heart really working? So... then maybe CPR stands for **Christ Provides Relevance**. Our lives are fulfilled because of our relationship to Christ. Our lives have meaning because of Christ. Our lives are worth something because of Christ.

Who do you see that needs Christ in their life? Who can you provide CPR to by sharing the good news; a neighbor, a friend, a family member, a co-worker? The workers are few, the opportunities are many and the rewards heavenly.

What else can CPR stand for? The possibilities are endless.

- 1) **Christian People Rising....Reaching, Responding, Running** (to help) **Risking** (their lives to share the gospel), **Rebuilding** (the kingdom).
- 2) **Christ Provides Restoration....Repair, Renewal, Reform...**

Pray: Lord, thank You for loving us and blessing us. Help us to see, the people who are missing Christ, in the world around us. Help us have the courage, the ability, the ingenuity to provide CPR by sharing the gospel with those in need. While our hearts provide life sustaining pumping action to maintain our physical existence, we know that it is You Christ who sustains us physically, mentally emotionally and spiritually. Thank You Lord for providing us with what we need to have relevance for our lives. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Education and Interpretation Message

Hi Everyone, Thanks to all of you who are working hard on local mission and mission today tasks. It's exciting to hear about the work you're doing.

Our organization has many tools for us to best serve others in mission. Our reading program teaches us how to help others, how to lead others, what people's needs are. Our spiritual needs are strengthened. We can learn how to strengthen our prayer life and our relationship with God. We can participate in Mission U to find out about our current mission emphasis.

There are podcasts, faith talks, and articles in Response Magazine. Let's continue to work together in mission and make a difference in women's and children's lives. If you need help with access to any of these resources, please contact me. Thanks

Sherrie Bekyir, 920-562-9438, bekyirs@gmail.com

NOTE: North East District Executive Team: A huge "Thank You" to Sherrie for her years of service on the team as Program Resource and Education & Interpretations Coordinators.

In January 2023 Sandy Butcher, President of Sheboygan Algoma Blvd. will be your new Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

Treasurer's Message

A couple of reminders as the years last quarter is here. If you want credit for your pledge and mission funds the check must reach me no later than December 15th. Any funds that come in after the 15th will be credited to your 2023 account. We have only received about 1/3 of our pledge of \$30,000.00. Many units do not send their pledge monies in until the last quarter so hopefully we will be closer to our pledge.

Our pledge to Conference for 2023 is \$ 30,000.00. In your President packs is your units pledge form, if you have not sent it, please do. You can snail mail it or e-mail it to me. We greatly appreciate all your dedicated works for missions, Thank You!!

This time of the year begins the holiday season.... I wish you all the best and blessings thru the holidays.

Keep up the good work and GOD BLESS.

Rogene Moore
NED Treasurer
United Methodist Women/United Women of Faith

Program Resources Message

When looking over the list of books our readers turned in I couldn't help but think I should share this list with others so they could see what our sisters have been reading. I would hope if they read the whole book, it was a good read, and would recommend it to others. So, if you are looking for a good book to read for the reading program I included the list for the Shofar. Have a good year reading and I will look forward to your list of books you have read for next year. All of these books are current enough to qualify next year. Some count as two books. I put a star after those.

Education in Mission

The Devil Came Down to Chinatown

Wesley Challenge by Chris Fowler 2019

Gum Moon

Love Casts Out Fear by Brother Nathan 2017 list

With Out You There is No Us by Suki Kim

When Others Shuddered; Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up by Jamie Janosz

Escape from Green Mansion

A Road Called Down on Both Sides by Caroline Kurtz

Leadership and Development

Step Up To the Plate

The Aging of Aquirius

Cinderella Liberator

Speaking well

The Courage to be Yourself 2017 list

Becoming

Elanor A Spiritual Biography by Harold Ivan Smith

The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women changes the World by Melinda Gates

Rise by Angelou - Bethany Hegeous 2022

I'm Not your Princess

Hands on the Freedom Plow

Falling into Place: A Memoir of Overcoming by Hattie Kauffman

Nurturing for Community

Heartbeat of a Mother

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old

Tilly and the Crazy Eights by Monique Gray Smith 2020

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McMorris

Broken and Blessed by Jessica Lagrone 2017 list

Before We Were Yours

The Lifesaving Church, Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention by Rachael A, Keef

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

The Bird Boys

Dangling by Any Carr

Social Action

Midnight Teacher by Janet Halfmann 2020

Midnight School: by Lily Ann Granderson & Her Secret School by Janet Halfmann & London Ladd

Nobody Cares When We Die

Program Resources /Social Action (con't)

Push Out *

A Cage Without Bars by Anne Dublin

Snake Oil by Richard Heinberg 2017 list

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Six by Ten Stories fro Solitary by Taylor Pendergrass & Mateo Hoke

Girl Gone Missing

For Such a Time as This by Rev Sharon Resher

Spiritual Growth

The Watcher

Easter Stories Classic Tales for the Holy Season by C.S. Lewis and others

One Day I Wrote Back

Worry Less So You Can Live More by Jane Rubietta

Finding Peace in an Anxious World Mission u Study *

Being Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence

The Soul Making Room

The Journey Between Us

Sleep Pray Heal a Path to Wholeness and Wellness by Donna Fado Ivery 2021

Raising World Changers in a Changing World by Kristen Welch

Dinner by Candelite

Sandra Klein, Program Resource Coordinator

dsklein6303@gmail.com 6303 Riverview Dr. Two Rivers WI 54241

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Message

Changes Are Difficult

We all have experienced change in our lives and often the impending change causes us to be anxious.

We, United Women In Faith are anxious about the changes that are taking place in our denomination and apprehensive even as our organization has rebranded and expresses excitement about the expectation of growth in our organization.

Membership in the Northeast district in 2017 was 722; 2018-839 members; 2019-734; 2020-697.

As we change, and grow, we pray for God's guidance. I lift up a portion of the Prayer for Sisterhood of Grace. "Help us remember your teachings and ignore distracting discourse meant to interrupt us from your work. Nudge us to hear the voices of our sisters and stand with them in solidarity."

Gwen Gibson

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Nominations Chair Message

I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank the members of North East District Executive Team for assisting Nominations in acquiring willing persons to serve in the positions left open due to two of our people feeling it necessary to resign. We thank them for their years of service to us. The open position of Historian has been filled by Yvonne Fuller. Connie Meyer will be Social Action Coordinator and Sandy Butcher will be Coordinator of Education and Interpretation. Thanks to the quick action taken at Annual Celebration we were able to Install all three formally. Do not even try to tell me the Holy Spirit was not in our midst!!

As you all know Nominations Committee is always available to give you needed information on the duties of each office so do not be afraid to contact them if you are interested in serving on the Executive Team. Even though we all agreed to serve through all the unknowns and changes in order to make the transition easier it does not mean others can not step up if interested. Please let us know!! If not now, in two years!! Those on the 2022 exit list will be the first offices we will have to fill.

We had a great day at Annual Celebration and our Speaker did an excellent job in letting us know what is changing and what is NOT changed as we move forward into United Women in Faith. If you were unable to attend you did miss an opportunity to meet with old friends and a great lunch served by the Suamico ladies. Seeing people you do not get to see often is always a wonderful blessing.

God Bless All,

Verna Lambrecht, Nomination Chair
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2023 NORTH EAST DISTRICT EXECUTIVE TEAM

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Social Action Message..... **Staggering and Sobering!**

I confess to skimming over headlines in the newspapers I read, but a headline in the September 19, 2022, edition of *USA Today* drew me in. National correspondent, Nada Hassanein's headline "'Staggering' and 'sobering': More than 80% of maternal deaths are preventable, CDC study shows", jumped off the page and had me questioning what century I live in.

Between 2017- 2019, 1,018 pregnancy-related deaths occurred and, "disproportionately occurred among women of color, including Black and Indigenous."

Key points in her article include:

- Of the 1,018 deaths, 839 occurred up to a year postpartum, with mental health conditions as the top underlying cause, according to the analysis.
- Black mothers, who are three times as likely as white mothers to die, made up close to a third of deaths from 2017-2019.
- More than 90% of Indigenous mothers' deaths were preventable, most due to mental health conditions and hemorrhage.

Hassanein, in an earlier article, reminds us that we have a rural healthcare crisis in America. Hospitals are closing or reducing care forcing millions of childbearing people to travel long distances to deliver their babies or receive prenatal and postnatal care. Further reading informed me that 130 rural hospitals closed over the last decade, and over 600 additional rural hospitals are at risk of closing soon. Hassanein says, "about 12 million women aged 15-54 live in rural areas. In these rural areas, about 1 in 9 Native women, 1 in 16 Latina women, and 1 in 26 Black women are 40 miles or further from the nearest maternity ward. It's also the case for 1 in 28 rural white women and hospitals still in operation, according to the American Hospital Association, have no obstetric care or labor and delivery units." This reporting was borne out by Candi Cornelius, Oneida Prenatal Care Coordinator, and panelist at Mission Action Day in April of this year. Tufts University professor Ndidi Amutah-Onukagha, an expert on the subject, calls it "the perfect storm" when mothers have fewer resources and must travel further for maternal healthcare.

Whether it's mental health issues, hemorrhage, cardiac or coronary problems, or, sadly, racism and bias, this should not be happening to our sisters. We can do better in America. We can do better in Wisconsin. We can do better in our cities and towns. We can do better as United Women in Faith. Do you need a program? Consider addressing or studying this issue during Black Maternal Health Week, recognized each year from April 11-17. Learn more about these issues by attending programs like "A Time to Connect with our Native American Sisters," this year's Mission Action Day Event, and advocate by demanding that your state and local representatives address these issues. We belong to an organization that has advocated for women, children, and youth for 150 years. The blueprint is there for us. All we need to do is follow it.

Connie Meyer, 2023 Social Action Coordinator

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